



# PAARAgraphs

Celebrating 61 years as a *real* ham radio club—*Since 1937*  
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



## CALENDAR

- June.....5, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30  
Menlo Park Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park 7:30-9:30 PM
- June....10, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30  
Bakers Square Rest., 949 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City  
(Temporary until Red Cross building repairs flood damage)
- June....13, **PAARA day at Foothill Flea Market**
- June....27, 28 **PAARA ARRL Field Day**  
(for info see Ponderings)
- July.....10, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- July.....15, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- Aug.....7, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- Aug.....12, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30



## PROGRAM

June 5, 1998  
7:30 P.M.

Speaker:

**Sam Vigil, WA6NGH**

**"DX-pedition in United Kingdom"**

PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:30 P.M., local time  
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off



## VE & A Little DX

Saturday, May 16, 1998 our VE session was held as always, in Redwood City at the American Legion Hall. We had the usual number of persons taking tests, with 3 taking the extra. On hand to help run the session were: **Joe Horne Sr. KB6OWG**, **Dan Curry WB6STW**, **Gene Irizarry KK6LO**, **Bill Sooman WB6UVO**, **Ron Panton W6VG**, and the much appreciated help of **Al Montoya WB6IMX**. The ham bands have really come to life, with even 10 meters showing ZL, VK, KH6, and 4 South American countries. These were of course on my favorite mode, CW. It looks like we will have more ham exams given by the VE with the increase in the sun spot numbers. 15 is also looking good, but remember 10 is for really good DX, keep listening. I always check out the beacons first to see how propagation is. On 10 listen around 28,199 MHz and on 15 around 21,150. My calibration is not right on, so I have to tune around the beacon advertised frequencies. ☺☺☺

—Ron, W6VG



## PAARA PONDERINGS de VIC BLACK, AB6SO

Mark your calendars so you'll be ready for a very busy month in June.

**Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>** PAARA will host the Foothill College Flea Market. This premier club fund raiser is worthy of your support. This may be the first Flea Market of the year with really good weather so it's expected to be a big one. Help is needed with food concession set up, sales and clean up as well as vendor site sales.

**ARRL Field Day** is the weekend of the **27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**. Preliminary setup will begin on **Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup>**. Help is needed for set up, operating, logging, food preparation, and cleanup

(Continued on page 51) Ponderings

## Miscellaneous Dates

### Flea Market at Foothill (info at: <http://joslin.com/FleaMarket>)

Mar. 14 Silicon Valley Emergency Communications Society (SVECS)  
 Apr. 11 West Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA)  
 May 9 Palo Alto Red Cross  
**Jun. 13 Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)**  
 Jul. 11 San Jose Red Cross  
 Aug. 8 Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)  
 Sep. 12 Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications Society (SPECS)  
 Oct. 10 Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (EMARC)

### PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,  
 contact: Dave Bailey, WS6W 408 730 5215

### EMARC Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,  
 contact: Sheldon Edelman 650-858-2176, Edelman@richochet.net

### NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, Thur  
 8:00PM,  
 contact: Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544.

### NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

meets 1st Sunday each month,  
 contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

### Perham Foundation,

contact: Jerry Tucker WA6LNV 650-961-3266

### SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 224.36, 440.80 MHz  
 contact: Mike Hastings KB6LCJ, 408-243-6745 or 408-249-6909.

### SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.  
 Net is on 144.45 & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.  
 contact: Dick Collins K6ANN 650-593-8952

### SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU repeater 146.385+ Nets: 2m, W6UU, 7:30 Mon; 10m,  
 28.385, 8:00 Thur. meets 2nd Mon each month.  
 contact: Jack Ruckman AC6FU

### SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+)  
 contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

### WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association

operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2  
 meets 3rd Wed every month.  
 contact: Glen Lokke Jr. KE6NBO at 408 971 8626, or gllokke@pacbell.net

### Disaster Services,

#### PALO ALTO CHAPTER, American Red Cross

Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM,  
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite,  
 contact: Alan Ball 650-688-0423

#### SAN JOSE CHAPTER, American Red Cross

contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, 408 249 7093, fsh@richochet.net

### VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 11AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz

American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, R.C.  
 contact: Joe KB6OWG.

## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**PO Box 911**

**Menlo Park, CA 94026**

President.....(vacant)  
 Vice President.....Dave Bailey, WS6W.....(408) 730 5215  
 Secretary.....Andreas Junge KF6NEB.....(650) 233 0843  
 Treasurer.....Doug Schliebus, K1DIT.....(650) 851 0727  
 Trustee/Property/Badges..Fred Canham, K6YT.....(650) 948 9238  
 ARES Officer.....Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM.....(650) 325 5484  
 Club Historian.....Steve Stuntz, K6FS.....(650) 322 4952  
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### Board of Directors

Charles Grandjean, WD6FAF (408) 739 5185 '98  
 John Buonocore, KD6ZL (650) 366 1658 '99  
 Terry Conboy, N6RY (510) 944 5388 '99  
 Steve Stuntz, K6FS (650) 322 4952 '99  
 Vic Black, AB6SO, (650) 366 0636 Past Pres  
 (see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

### PAARAgaphs Staff

Editor.....Wally Porter, K6URO.....(650) 494 7038  
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**PAARAgaphs e-mail address: [wmpor@comcast.net](mailto:wmpor@comcast.net)**

Submit material for PAARAgaphs by the 15th

**PAARA Website <http://www.qsl.net/paara/index.html/>**

## PAARA SIG's (Special Interest Groups)

Listed are the SIG's as the May meeting. One person is listed to give a contact. If you are interested in being part of a SIG and do not know the listed person, ask before the break at the next PAARA meeting. No reason you can't belong to many groups.

GROUP	Contact
Packet/APRS	J. Price, KD6GM
Young Hams	Zack Nelson, KF6NCS
CW	Jon, KF6OLA
QRP	Ron, KQ6RS
Ham Internet	Dennis, KF6OHO
HF Mobile	Dan, WB6STW
Field Day	Fred, K6YT
Antenna Design	Dirk, KE6ZUY
PAARAgaphs	Wally, K6URO
Club Station	Andreas, KF6NEB
Flea Market	Dave, WS6W
Handicapped/ Disabled Hams	Steve, K6FS
Wannabe's (hams)	Steve, K6FS
Homebrew	Matt, N2MJI
Other (specify)	

*Luck is the residue of design.*

☐ Branch Rickey

## PAARA MONDAY NIGHT NET

**8:30 PM 145.230-600 MHz repeater**

*PL tone off*

Latest news between monthly issues of PAARAgaphs



## WEB WANDERINGS

de Vic Black, AB6SO

Late last year Tech America featured a one month special on the Alinco DJ-S11T and DJ-S41T transceivers at \$88 each. These little 2 meter and 70cm FM monobanders, powered by 3 AA alkaline cells, fit into your shirt pocket and run about 300 milliwatts. Later, HRO matched the price and now sells them at a permanently low price of \$88 each. Fry's Electronics sells the 2 meter version for \$89 and the 70 cm rig for slightly over \$100. Performance suffers somewhat because the antenna is inefficient and can't be changed. Now there's a way to modify the radios to replace the antenna with a ninety degree SMA connector to allow use of a more efficient antenna. With the SMA connector, you could even operate into a large Yagi. Sunnyvale's **Andy Fu AC6GN** does an excellent job of showing the simple mod at <http://hamradio.mail1.com/alinco>. (Note: that's mail followed by the numeral 1, not mail). If you're lazy (errr\_I mean busy), you can buy a mod kit from Andy, or he will modify the radio for you. See his web page for details.

PAARA's May speaker, **Dennis Franklin K6DF** from Fremont, spoke about operation by the Pampanito Amateur Radio Club aboard the restored World War II submarine USS Pampanito SS-383, berthed at San Francisco's Pier 45. Dennis' excellent web site at <http://members.home.net/k6df> describes amateur operations aboard the Pampanito and aircraft carriers USS Hornet and USS Carl Vinson (imagine a steel ground plane covering several acres mounted 75 feet above salt water with no hills nearby to distort your antenna pattern). The **Pampanito ARC NJ6VT** web site has further information and links about shipboard ham radio at <http://ns1.qsl.net/nj6vt/index/html>. The web sites have operating schedules for working the station on the air. You may also call ahead to arrange to actually operate from the Pampanito as a guest operator.

There are many Web sites available which allow you to check the weather before you travel this summer. Here are several that are tested and are good for local conditions. These have NOAA and National Weather Service severe storm warnings and flash flood watches. Some also have earthquake reports.

San Francisco Bay Area Weather is shown at <http://www.wco.com/~paulg/weather.html>. This was recommended by the San Carlos Police Department. It includes all of the local TV station reports, weather cameras around the Bay and local reporting stations located at area schools, Lawrence Hall of Science, San Jose Tech Museum, etc.

West Coast weather including radar images can be found at <http://www.foxweather.com>. World wide weather, including the Bay Area is available from <http://cirrus.spri.umich.edu/wxnet>. Nice color satellite and radar images. For quick interactive links to weather checks by city (just type in your city or

ZIP code), see <http://wunderground.com>. This is a part of the University of Michigan Weather Underground Project listed above.

Before traveling around the Bay you may check traffic conditions at [www.scubed.com/yahootraffic/SF/SC/map.html](http://www.scubed.com/yahootraffic/SF/SC/map.html). Click on the area you're interested in and the map will show the current traffic speed supplied by inductive loops imbedded in the freeways.

While traveling this summer, you may want to consider becoming active in the USA Counties Award activities. The objective of county hunting is to work stations in all of the 3076 counties within the United States. The United University of Michigan Weather Underground Project listed above.

Before traveling around the Bay you may check traffic conditions at [www.scubed.com/yahootraffic/SF/SC/map.html](http://www.scubed.com/yahootraffic/SF/SC/map.html). Click on the area you're interested in and the map will show the current traffic speed supplied by inductive loops imbedded in the freeways.

While traveling this summer, you may want to consider becoming active in the USA Counties Award activities. The objective of county hunting is to work stations in all of the 3076 counties within the United States. The United States of America Counties Award (USA-CA) is maintained by CQ Magazine with specialty awards provided by Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC). Several nets operate for the express purpose of providing the greatest opportunity to contact counties. Many long-haul truck drivers engage in county hunting as do vacationers by detouring through "rare" counties to provide contacts---a sort of mini DXpedition. I have one QSL card from Mississippi proudly marked "The only ham in this county". For more information about this interesting pastime go to <http://www.delve.com/ch/index.html>.

Go to <http://www.pe.net/~dopplers/links.htm> for nearly 75 links to radio direction finding. **Ed Greany KB6DOL** has information for buying, building and operating all kinds of DF equipment. Direction finding can be a casual pastime, a competitive international sport or a serious life saving radio technique. There may be something here for you. Effective equipment can be made with little more than PVC pipe or wood strips and some straightened clothes hangers. (Keep some duct tape handy for emergencies).

**Joe Leggio WB2HOL** has some fun, effective, instructive and easy to build DF projects at <http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/rdf.htm>. I especially like the 2 and 3 element beams made from PVC pipe and steel "tape measure" elements. Since the elements are flexible, but self supporting, you can store the antenna by poking the boom into a tube and the elements will fold back along the boom. For use, just pull the boom out of the tube and the elements spring back into position. Joe's page also has excellent articles on building 40 and 750 milliwatt fox transmitters using perf board and a few parts from Radio Shack. His minimized 555 time-difference-of-arrival (TDOA) RDF unit is very effective and easy to build. This is also a good source of information about passive and active attenuators.

(Continued on page 49) Wanderingss





## PROGRAM NOTES:

### PAARA Program, May 1, 1998

— Steve Stuntz, K6FS

Our program of Friday, May first, was presented to a less-than-packed but enthusiastic audience (rest of the gang must have been weaving garlands around somebody's May-pole elsewhere) by **Dennis Franklin, K6DF**, of Fremont. Dennis, a member of the **Pampanito Amateur Radio Club**, San Francisco, took us on a masterfully videotaped walking tour of the World-War II submarine, *USS Pampanito*, SS-383. Now permanently docked at Pier 45, San Francisco, as part of the National Maritime Museum's floating displays, after being dedicated a "national historic landmark" on November- 14, 1986 (according to San Francisco Chronicle, Saturday, November 15, 1986). Open for public visiting, Pampanito was a Balao-class vessel, launched at Portsmouth, NH, Naval Shipyard, in 1943, and assigned to the Pacific Fleet, where she saw action in six war patrols, on one of which, under the command of Lt. Cdr. P. E. Summers, she sank the Japanese transport *Kachidoki Maru* carrying US and Australian POW's, rescuing 73, (Cited in Roscoe, Theodore: *Submarine Operations in World War II*, US Naval Institute, 1949, p358.)

On his video tour of *Pampanito*, Dennis took us literally from stem to stern, showing in detail engine, maneuvering and radio rooms, crew's and officers quarters, torpedo rooms, fore (six tubes) and aft (four tubes), control room and conning tower - and noted that the original radio equipment is maintained in working condition, and is exercised from time to time (where in the world do they get replacement tubes? "Solid state" was an unknown phrase in 1943) by members of the Club.

Of particular interest was Dennis' description of the radio room as a "two-man-size closet", barely habitable when in full operation due to heat emitted by the oversize "jugs" in the TBL-7 HF transmitter capable of 50 (fifty) watts AM, 200 watts CW, originally powered by the ship's 120-volt DC supply. This rig is still operable, along with the original complement of receivers and frequency meter (used for heterodyne spot-tuning the otherwise uncalibrated receivers! However, the radio room now houses a 100-watt Yaesu FT-890 transceiver, which by means of an SGC ST-230 automatic tuner covers all HF amateur bands, using an updated version of the ship's original antenna - a coax-fed 115-foot longwire stretching from a feed-through bowl insulator on the port side of the conning-tower to a jack-staff near the stern. Signal reports from distant stations routinely run "10 over S9", Considering that the effective ground-plane is all of San Francisco Bay, this is no surprise!

The old ship's diesel engines are regularly exercised by members of the volunteer crew, most ex-Navy. They no longer

drive generators to produce propulsion and battery-charging power; the batteries were removed long ago, and replaced by rock ballast to keep the vessel in trim.

The **Pampanito Amateur Radio Club** was formed about a year ago, and has 14 members at present, all but one ex-military. It operates under the call-sign **NJ6VT**, an adaptation (amateurization?) of the ship's original Navy call, **NJVT**. The station is regularly on the air every Wednesday and Sunday, 2600Z to 2000Z, on the following frequencies: SSB - 7.244, 18.137, 21.333, and 28.400 MHz; CW - 7.144, 14.058, and 21.150 MHz.

Incidentally, *Pampanito* participated in "Submarines on the Air", a special commemorative event, announced in April QST, during the April 25-26 weekend, accompanying some three dozen similar submarine memorials around the U. S. (Note: HF propagation over that weekend was terrible - ed.)

To cap off his presentation, Dennis took us on a video-taped "Tiger" cruise aboard the aircraft carrier *Carl T. Vinson* from Pearl Harbor to Alameda in November of 1996. Although not concerned primarily with amateur radio, this trip afforded opportunity for some dramatic video shots of flight-deck action, launching and recovering F-14's and F-18's. However, by exerting his persuasive charm, Dennis was permitted access to the on-board ham station, signing "**K6FD** Navy maritime mobile region 2". He was forbidden to be more specific about the type or name of the ship, or its QTH. Relinquishing the camera, Dennis permitted himself to be photographed working the rig, exchanging signal reports and pleasantries with hams around the Pacific Basin.

PAARA is indebted to Dennis for a well-thought-out use of nonprofessional video in an excellent presentation accompanied by lively commentary, and to our vice president, **Dave Bailey, WS6W**, for locating and inviting Dennis to favor us with his program. Also note that this is the first truly extensive workout PAARA's new VTR-monitor system has received.

-30-

## FLASH

The following **Special Event** announcement will appear in July QST, and also in an upcoming issue of World Radio:

"Mountain View, CA: Pale Alto Amateur Radio Assn., **N6M**, 1600-2400Z, **July 12**. Honoring the men and women of the **129<sup>th</sup> Search and Rescue Wing, CA Air National Guard**. 7.250, 14.250, 21.350, 28.350.

SASE for certificate:

PAARA, P.O.Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026."

PLEASE NOTE THE  
SPECIAL-EVENT 1X1 CALL:

## "NOVEMBER SIX MIKE"

Rigs for the above frequencies, plus 6 meters and VHF/UHF, will operate at the recreation and picnic area, south of the former Navy housing tract, Moffett Federal Air Field. Come and enjoy the fun, meet the troops, and help demonstrate ham radio!

More later.

(Continued from page 47) Wanderings

**Joe Moell K0OV** co-authored with **Tom Curlee WB6UZZ** the textbook "TRANSMITTER HUNTING—Radio Direction Finding Simplified". Joe has written over 110 magazine articles on direction finding and recently wrote a chapter on RDF for The ARRL Handbook as Technical Advisor to the ARRL. In February the ARRL appointed Joe the US's first ARDF Coordinator to promote international-style foxhunting. Joe's comprehensive web site is at <http://www.members.aol.com/hom ingin/index.html>.

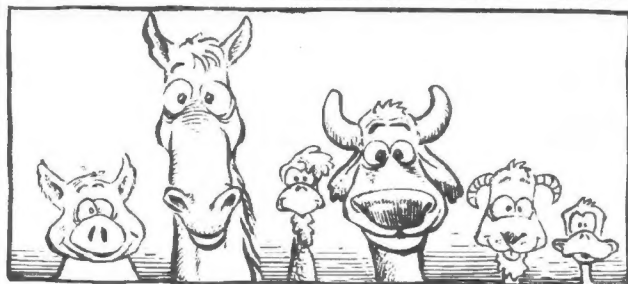
DXpedition of the month is the Svalbard DXpedition to Longyearbyen-Spitsberg, IOTA island EU-026. Spitsbergen Island is located approximately 15 degrees East and 80 degrees North. This Norwegian Arctic island will be activated by **JW9PJA** from 12 June through 16 June. Summer is expected to occur sometime during those five days on Spitsbergen. Operation will be on 160 through 6 meters and will include CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV plus RS12 & RS15 satellites. Try the home page at <http://home.sol.no/~la9pja/jw98.htm>.

The motto of the Arizona ScQRPions QRP club: "If it ain't fun, you ain't doin' it right!" :-). ☺☺☺

—Vic, AB6SO

*Two dangers constantly threaten the world:  
order and disorder*

□ Paul Valéry



Join us for pre-meeting eyeball  
**QSO June 5th**  
**gab & gobble**  
6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant  
1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park  
—across from Kepler's Book Store—

## THE WAY IT WAS

### □ Charlie Grandjean, WD6FAF

Again reflecting on my teenage years in the early '30s, I realize that because we had only the print media, radio and movie newsreels as our primary sources of local, national and world events, shortwave radio was captivating my interest as another fascinating window on the world. Ham radio offered many interesting OSOs revealing the activities, location, WX conditions, occupations of the participants, and trivia of an entertaining or informative content.

Heard on 20 meter AM 'phone during late evening hours was **J. Poy Hunt, A.S.C., W6CNE** at Canoga Park, Calif., who in QSO's with contacts in the Territory of Hawaii (not a state, yet!) told of his trip to Brazil to do background photography used by RKO studios in the first Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers film, "Flying Down to Rio". When today you see RKO movies from that era, in some of them the credits will include **J. Roy Hunt**, a member of the American Society of Cameramen, "A.S.C."

One call of a ham remembered for his location and the "twang" in his speech is **W5BDB** heard from Texarkana, Arkansas. Content of his QSOs and calls of stations he contacted are now forgotten,

Other calls heard at my home in Oakland included **W61T** ("I, Indiana, T, Texas"), **Jack Tait; W6TT** ("T as in this, T as in that, or, alternatively, "T, tonsillitis, T, tuberculosis"), **Elvin Fiege; W6DUB**, ("the dub station in Oakland"), **Mario Chirone**. **ELvin** and **MARIO** later acquired Electric Supply Company where I at times had purchased the few parts and receiving tubes I could afford for my limited radio projects. **ELMAR** Electronics operated by these hams did well, ultimately being sold by them to Wylie Laboratories now in Santa Clara.



### PAARA MONDAY NIGHT NET

8:30 PM 145.230-600 MHz repeater

PL tone off

Latest news between monthly issues of PAARAgaph

### Bring a Show & Tell

to the next  
PAARA meeting

**PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911**

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA. • Radio NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 MHz repeater, PL tone off. • Membership in PAARA is \$12.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAgaphs, \$6 for additional family members (no newsletter). • Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

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**PAARA**

*Since 1937*

## PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members.  
 (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing).

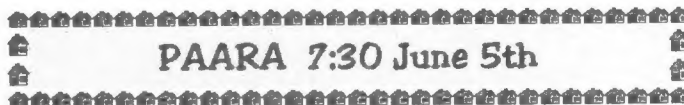
All ad rates listed are per issue only.

1. Not for profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size).

2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association.

The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association. All fees are for "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads.



**PAARA PRIDE**

wear your

**PAARA Badge**

to

meetings, picnics, field days, winter parties, ham fests,  
 flea markets, Pacificcons...

(if you need one, contact Fred, K6YT)





(Continued from page 45) Ponderings

and tear down. Everyone can operate including unlicensed third party operators so long as there is a fully licensed control operator in charge. Novices are needed for a Novice station including 10 meters phone. More than half of all US hams have never operated during a sunspot high. We are now starting a new sunspot cycle and propagation promises to be especially good for Field Day. (Just to make sure, PAARA has commissioned a wizard to "salt" the ionosphere especially for this event.) Come out and enjoy the thrills of operating from a field location during a major contest.

**Special 1 X 1** callsign **N6M** (for National Guard, Moffett) is assigned to PAARA for use at our Special Event Station Sunday, July 12 to honor the 129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing of the California Air National Guard at Moffett Field Federal Air Station in Mountain View. **Steve Stuntz K6FS** has done a fine job arranging the activity which will highlight amateur radio capabilities at the annual Guard picnic for the rescue wing employees and their families. Several thousand people will be able to witness amateur radio first hand.

Operators are needed for all frequencies. This is your chance to experience the thrill of being on the receiving end of a pile up using an exotic callsign. This is also a fine opportunity for Tech and Tech Plus third party SSB operators to work HF DX without the competitive pressures of Field Day. The Special Event coincides with the IARU HF World Championship and overlaps the end of the CQ World-Wide VHF Contest so we're expecting the operations to be very popular.

The Rescue Wing has about 2000 employees, but not a single ham operator. The wing is automatically activated in case of a magnitude 7 or greater earthquake. Most of the employees live in the San Joaquin Valley so emergency communications between the base and the employees' homes is a major concern for the base management. As a public service, PAARA is coordinating activities with the base Commander and the Communications Officer with the ultimate goal of holding a new ham class to license members of the wing.

See June QST for an article about former PAARA member **Lars Karlson AA6IW**. Lars has provided satellite communications for PAARA Field Days in the past. He has been concentrating his amateur radio activities on microwaves and in December Lars and **Wil Jensby W0EOM** from Santa Clara set a US distance record for 78 GHz communications. June CQ VHF has a nice photo of Lars with his portable station using an 18 inch parabolic reflector antenna. One end of the record setting contact was at the local "secret" VHF/UHF operating position located at Redwood City's Canada College northern parking lot.

The 78 GHz band is difficult to work because of a lack of equipment, but this will change very soon. The 5,500 MHz wide(!) band will be shared with short range collision avoidance radar meant to warn car drivers when they approach another vehicle since visual flight rules don't seem to work well enough on freeways. New cars will have front and rear looking radar as well as side looking radar to warn drivers who don't look where they are going. Radar is expected to be a boon to

drivers who parallel park by ear. The radar sets will be very inexpensive when mass produced and will make excellent ham station building blocks. Ultimately, a lot of the systems, complete with transmitters, receivers and antennas, will be available in junk yards, perhaps put there by drivers who relied too heavily on them.

Severe weather hit the peninsula again on May 4 with torrential rain, hail, lightning strikes and tornadoes touching down in Sunnyvale and Los Altos. The last time Sunnyvale had a large tornado was in 1951 when a twister tore up a road side fruit stand on El Camino near Bernardo Avenue. This time the first call to the Sunnyvale Public Safety Office was from **Mike Colliander KE6MDW** who heard a call for help during the afternoon commute on 2 meters. The Office of Emergency Services was activated in Los Altos to help with communications when the police and fire departments lost power. Hams who would ordinarily check into the SPECS Net suddenly found themselves in a real emergency. This is a reminder to always keep your batteries charged and your radios at hand. Emergencies, by their very nature, almost always occur without prior warning. Fortunately, there were no deaths and only one injury, but there was extensive damage to many homes and vehicles.

Unfortunately, jammers were active during the emergency. The FCC needs to enforce its own rules and apply fines to stop this type of anti-social behavior. The fine for interfering with emergency communications is \$10,000. I won't hold my breath waiting for this to happen, though. The FCC doesn't seem to care a bit about amateur radio. The new management of the FCC is mostly attorneys who want to sell the spectrum as a profit center.

Several stations were heard during the emergency on 2 meters, without ham ID, using terms such as "What's your 20?" and other CB jargon. A \$90 HT is more effective into a repeater than a \$200 CB rig operating simplex. Now that non-ham retail stores are selling inexpensive amateur HT's, this may become more of a problem. The problem can only grow as the sunspot cycle heats up and there aren't enough channels left on CB (not that all jammers are CBers, but many appear to be).

Now is a good time to consider making a simple radio direction finding antenna to help locate and reconcile interlopers. Since an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, this is also a good time to become proactive and encourage CBers to learn about amateur radio, get licensed and join our ranks. Remember the Revolutionary cry, "The price of freedom is everlasting vigilance".

—Vic, AB6SO



## PAARA WEB SITE

check it out

<http://www.qsl.net/paara/>

webmaster: Andreas Junge KF6NEB



## ARRL Online

From ARRL Pacific Division: May 1998

Special Pacific Division Update

Date: 98-05-08 22:28:59 EDT

jmaxwell@netcom.com (james a maxwell)

### 70 CM BAND THREATENED BY LAND MOBILE SERVICE PETITION

On April 30, 1998, the FCC put on notice for public comment a Petition (RM 9267) filed by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) seeking, among other things, "immediate....reallocation of 420-430 MHz, paired with 440-450 MHz, from Federal use to PMRS [Private Mobile Radio Service]". The LMCC is a loose affiliation of organizations with interests in (mostly private) land mobile communications.

The ARRL is actively organizing opposition to this petition. The purpose of this special Update is to spread the word within the ARRL Pacific Division, and to encourage all to write to the FCC in opposition to this proposal.

As background, the 70 CM band is the second most popular of the Amateur Radio Service's VHF/UHF allocations, with substantial FM repeater and other operation in the 440 to 450 MHz segment and a variety of uses in the 420 to 430 MHz segment. Amateur Radio now enjoys the use of 420 to 450 MHz on a secondary basis to the Federal Government. The proposal would transfer the primary allocations between 420 and 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the government to the PMRS. Amateur radio would retain secondary status in the segments, and the 430 to 440 MHz allocation would remain unchanged. However, a primary assignment to PMRS from 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz has the potential for a significant impact on amateur operations in those segments.

The petition notes that land mobile already has access to 420-430 MHz in three cities along the Canadian border, the result of a move by Canada at the time of WARC-79 to reallocate that part of the band from amateur to land mobile. The petition makes brief reference to expected "reduction in military use of this band" and to Wind Profiler use of 449 MHz, which according to LMCC "should be discouraged or at least minimized, in favor of higher frequency operation (e.g. 915 MHz), if reallocation to PMRS is considered."

The petition notes that "The band is generally popular with radio amateurs, currently on a secondary basis, with repeater use in 440-450 MHz and satellite links and amateur television in 430-440 MHz" and says, "Amateur applications in the 420-430/440-450 MHz should remain secondary to PMRS."

Comments on this petition are due in hard copy format only by June 1, 1998. No e-mail comments will be accepted. Reply Comments are due in hard copy format only by June 15, 1998.

Submit your hard copy comments by June 1, 1998, to the following address:

RM 9267

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

1919 M St., NW

Washington, DC 20554

The Petition is 75 pages long, and reportedly will NOT be put up on the FCC WWW site.

In the Petition there are four key pages affecting the Amateur Radio Service—pages 28 - 31. These pages will soon be available from the Pacific Division WWW site at [pdarrl.org](http://pdarrl.org) and in straight ASCII via e-mail from me. Conversion of the hard copy text from FCC via ARRL Headquarters is by **Glen Lokke, KE6NBO**, of the Pacific Division team

—thanks, Glen!

### PAARA NEEDS A LOGO

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*PAARA Historian -Steve K6FS*

from PAARAgaphs November 1994



Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM was PAARA President and PAARAgaph Publisher. TM Vandenheede, KC6IJE was PAARAgaphs Editor. They were responsible for format used by current issues of PAARAgaphs.

**Does anyone know  
who designed the above logo?**

Let Steve, K6FS know





